18 April 2008
Revised 14 Jan 2012

A Genealogy and History of Some Early Mills and Whitacre Families in Southwest Ohio

By Ted Mills[1]

Great Great Grandson of Michael Mills

Several of us Mills family researchers are linked by yDNA matches of 37/37 or 36/37, and thus very probably share a common Mills ancestor seven or eight or nine generations back. We also know that Morgan Mills (b 1794), John Mills (b 1783), John Valentine Mills (1785), James F. Mills (1790), John Mills (b 1753 or 1760), Thomas Mills (1784) and Michael Mills (b 1787) must be closely related, since the seven living Mills men who have these yDNA matches also have confirmed paper trails back to these three men of the 1780s-1790s generation.

In addition, we know that several of these men lived in the Brown's Run area of Madison Twp, Butler Co, OH in the early 19th century, as did several older Mills men. These latter probably include Elijah (b 1757), Jacob (b 1762), Joseph (1751) and possibly others of that 1760s generation.[2] Another, John (1753) lived in Knox County, OH, and yet another, Michael (1787), lived in Salem Twp, Warren County OH until 1838.

Our problem is to link these two 18th century generations: who is whose son or nephew? Which of them are siblings? And further, several Mills women were of that younger generation, and we want to know how they are related as well.

At present we are mainly limited to digging in records of the time and pursuing likely candidates for DNA testing. The records are meager, and we feel we have nearly exhausted that source.

---

[1] I am greatly indebted to fellow Mills researchers for data used in this document, and especially to Judy Boie for shared research and critical editing. The Warren County Genealogical Society and its marvelous website, and especially volunteers Arne Trelvik and Chuck Griffen, have been very helpful, as have the Warren County Recorder's office and Records and Archives Center. And thanks to Ed Bates for giving this paper wide circulation.

[2] The use of "probably" in this paper means that there is substantial evidence to support the statement, even though documentary proof is lacking. "Possibly" means there is some evidence for the statement but that it is not really convincing.

My principal interest is in Michael Mills, who settled in Salem Twp, Warren County, OH, so I have worked in Warren County as well as in Butler Co. What follows reflects most of what I know about my Michael branch in Warren County. A separate document will offer what I know about the Butler Millses. I welcome critiques, additions and suggestions of other changes. My contact information is at the end. I have added some relevant historical material in italics.

Michael of Warren County

In the 1770s, as the trickle turned to a flood of settlers crossing the Appalachians seeking new land, several probable Mills brothers migrated from Frederick County, MD to Morgan Township, Washington County (now Greene Co), PA, where they settled in the Tenmile Creek area. One of the brothers was Jacob Mills, born 1762, and another was Elijah, born 1757. They became Indian fighters in the effort to push the natives back across the Ohio River. During the Revolution, they fought with several units of the PA militia, and Elijah served as an officer in the Continental Army. The defeat of the British enhanced the prospect of settling the lands west of the Appalachian mountains, since part of the British war strategy had been to arm the natives and encourage them to attack American frontier settlements.

By 1788, although the land north of the Ohio was still disputed, and the natives' defenses were fierce, John Cleves Symmes of New Jersey was negotiating with the US government to buy more than a million acres between the Miami Rivers in what became southwestern Ohio. He engaged Capt. Benjamin Stites of the Tenmile community to lead an expedition to settle at the mouth of the Miami River, and Stites did so in the Fall of 1788. Included in that expedition were "Jacob Mills and his family," and Elijah Mills, probably Jacob's brother.[3]

Also in 1788, the Constitutional Convention was meeting in Philadelphia to stem the growing disunity of the country by composing a new constitution. George Washington was completing his second term as president, and the country was preparing for its first general election and peaceful transfer of power.

[3] Gargiulo, pp. 14-17, 76-77.

Jacob Mills' family probably included a son Michael, as well as other children. Michael was born in PA in 1787, so he was just one year old when the Stites party landed.[4] We know that Michael's father Jacob was a scout and spy in the Kentucky territory between 1790 and 1794, along with Jacob's probable brother, Elijah Mills.[5] A story, probably apocryphal, has come down through the Bosworth family that Jacob Mills came from North Carolina and was with Daniel Boone in the early settlement of Kentucky. A biographical article about Augustus Bosworth (who married Michael's daughter Keziah) states: "Mr. Mills [Michael] was born in North Carolina, and when a boy was taken to Kentucky by his father, Jacob Mills, who became an associate with Daniel Boone in the early history of Kentucky."[6] However, the record of Michael's birth in Pennsylvania is pretty strong, especially as his self-report on successive federal censuses always mentioned PA, and there are other known inaccuracies in the Bosworth record.

Most of the families who had come down the Ohio hoping to settle on new land north of the river were unable to do so prior to 1795. In that year the Greenville Treaty was signed with Indian representatives, ceding all land south of Greenville, OH to the US government. This followed their defeat by Gen. Anthony Wayne's army in the Battle of Fallen Timbers the previous year. Charles Bosworth tells the story of Jacob Mills' participation in that battle and the earlier one, in which Gen. St. Clair's army was routed. (Jacob Mills was Bosworth's great grandfather.)

We don't know much about Michael's young life until his service in Capt. Timothy Titus' company of Ohio militia, War of 1812, from Sept. 4, 1813 to March 4, 1814.[7,8] He enlisted when he was nearly 26. I could find no land, probate, marriage, or other records of him prior to that

---

[4] Conflicting birthdates for Michael Mills are reported by Bosworth (May 28), the Free Baptist Cyclopedia (May 28), and as calculated from his tombstone (April 15). All agree on the year (1787), as do the federal census reports. We know Jacob was living in PA at that time.

[5] Wolfe, p. 198.

[6] Bosworth; also, *Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana.* Bosworth's memoir includes a table of names and birth dates of Michael's children, with additional information for some. This degree of detail suggests a family Bible or other written record which might lend credibility to his information. Where he is not giving such "vital records," however, Bosworth's information includes some errors.

[7] *Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812.*

[8] On Michael's grave, a DAR plaque mistakenly identifies his service as "Nye's Cav. Co., Kratzer's Ohio Mil, War of 1812." This was the service record of Michael Mills of Knox Co, OH, possibly a cousin of our Michael 1787.

time. Timothy Titus was a pioneer settler in the part of Washington Twp, Warren Co that was included in Salem Twp until 1818, and, although the *Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812* says that Capt. Titus' company was probably from Miami County, the distribution of names in the company makes it very likely that the men were drawn from the Salem Twp area of Warren County, where Michael lived. Sgt. Daniel Mills served in the same company.

When he was 27, Michael married Martha McHugh, on 16 Jul 1815 "by consent of (her) stepfather," in Warren County.[9] They were together for nine years, during which Martha bore four children: Jesse, Amy, Jacob and Betsey, the latter of whom died young, probably in infancy. Martha passed away on 6 July 1824 and is buried in the Edwardsville Cemetery, Harlan Twp, Warren Co. Martha's brother, John McHugh, lived nearby in Salem Twp. Born in 1796, he was married to Elizabeth Rice on 23 Jan 1818. In 1849, they moved to Iowa. Martha and John were born in Virginia and orphaned as children, when they came to Ohio.[10]

Michael was married again on 23 Feb 1825, to Elizabeth (Betsy) Whitacre.[11] Together, they had seven more children: Jemima, David, Pulaski, Rachel, Cyrus, Cassius and Keziah. Jemima probably died in infancy, since she is never mentioned again.[12] The others grew to adulthood. I will return to Michael's children in a later section.

These years of settling, clearing and childrearing for Michael were also good years for the frontier areas as a whole. The election of James Monroe as president in 1816 inaugurated what came to be known as "the era of good feelings," as well as a new emphasis on federally financed infrastructure development throughout the burgeoning West. Roads, bridges, canals, and other improvements became priorities for the federal government. The flow of families from slaveholding states into southern Ohio gradually affected the

---

[9] *Ohio Marriage Records Through 1820.* Her last name in the handwritten original record is difficult to decipher accurately, and her stepfather's name was not given.

[10] *History of Lewis, Clark, Knox, and Scotland Counties of Missouri,* 1887. Thanks to Burt Handy for information about the McHugh family.

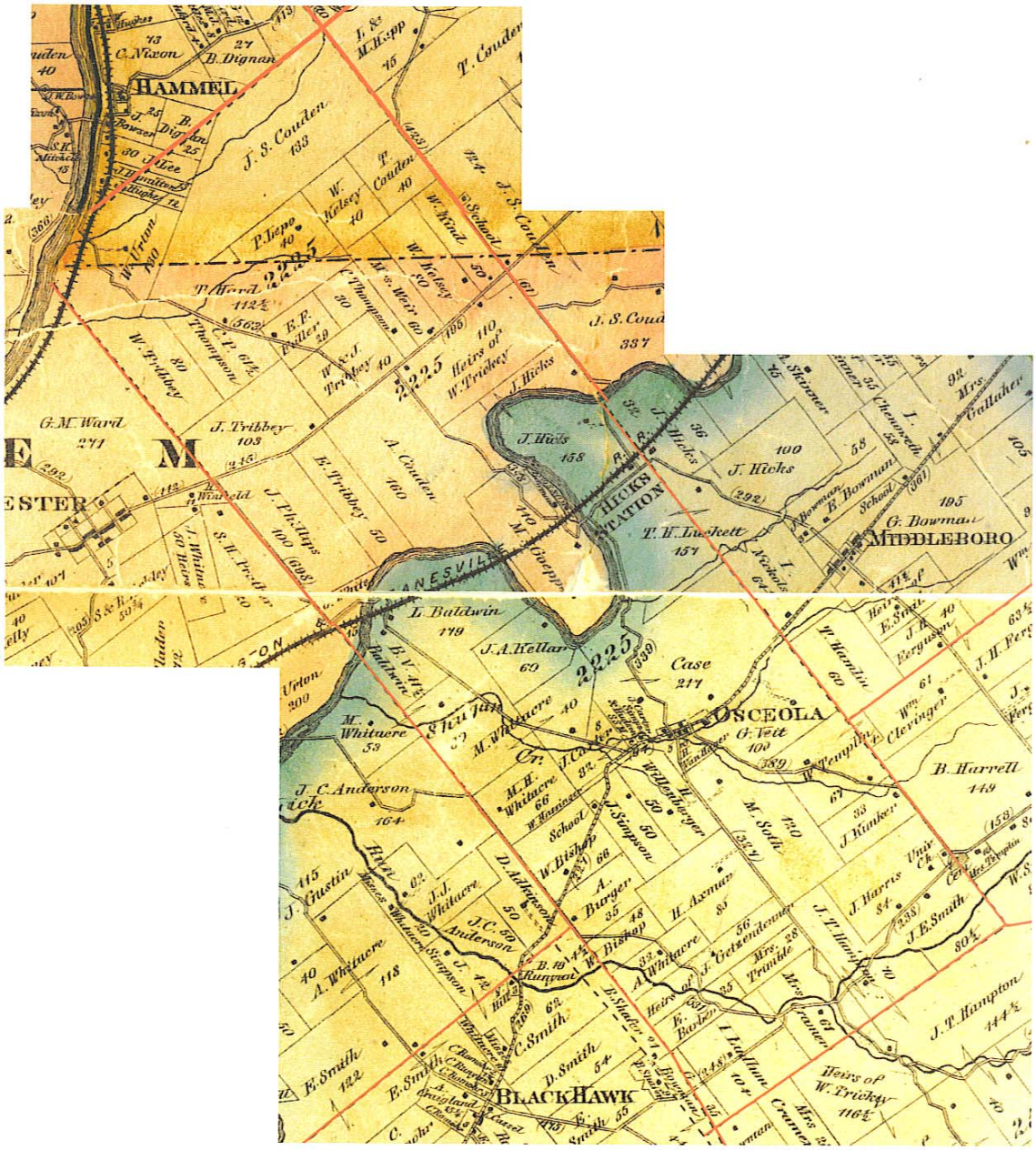
[11] *Ohio Marriage Records Through 1820.*

[12] Sowers reports nine children, omitting Jemima and Betsey. Bosworth reports eleven children, including both Jemima, born Jan. 23, 1826, and Betsey, born Nov. 25, 1821. Although other sources mention Jemima, no one else mentions Betsey. We may never know the exact number of children for sure, but Bosworth's inclusion of birthdates is convincing to me. He probably had access to a family Bible. In any case, it seems certain that nine children grew to adulthood.

politics of the area, and Ohio became a major battleground over the slavery issue. While Jacksonian Democrats maintained solidarity with the South, by 1850 there was a deepening split in Ohio between the Free-Soilers and the Democrats. The Louisiana Purchase of 1808 had brought the opening of yet more western lands in the future, and the conflict largely centered upon whether slavery was to be permitted in the new territories.. Many younger families moved further west, to Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, where anti-slavery views were widely held. The Free Will Baptists, of which Michael was a minister, held strongly abolitionist views, which may have contributed to his 1838 move to Indiana.

We do not know where Michael lived prior to his first marriage, nor where he and Martha lived until they bought land in Salem Township, Warren County, OH on 3 May 1817. By that time, their first child Jesse J. was nearly a year old. There were other land purchases by Michael in the next few years, also. These properties were included in Survey 2225 of the Virginia Military District, first held by Benjamin Taliaferro of Virginia, patented to John Martin of Clark Co., KY and Joseph Crockett, and sold to settlers as they arrived to populate eastern Warren County.[13]

[13] See the Appendix for an account of the settlement of various public lands in southwestern Ohio, especially the peculiar survey methods used in the Virginia Military District, of which Survey 2225 was part.



1867 map of VMS #2225, running northwest to southeast, 3671 acres. Michael and Martha's first property was the triangular plot where the white separation line crosses Todds Fork. Daniel's was the "J. Phillips" plot northwest of Michael's.

Survey 2225 is a long rectangular plot of 3671 acres, running diagonally northwest to southeast, bisected by Todd's Fork, a stream which flowed into the Little Miami River at Lebanon. The original

survey 2225 now covers parts of Washington, Salem and Harlan Townships, although when the survey was done, all of 2225 was in Salem Twp.

As can be seen in the map of 2225 above, made 50 years later in 1867, the northwest corner of the survey land touches the Little Miami River just south of Hammel, and it includes the meandering Todd's Fork, and the hamlet of Osceola. Michael's and Martha's first property (of which we have record) was 32 acres, bought from John Martin of KY on May 3, 1817 (7.234).[14] The deed's description begins "on an island in Todd's Fork on Whitacre's line," on the west side of the survey. It appears to be the triangular piece that lies west of Todd's Fork where the stream's course is due north/south at the western edge of Survey 2225 – the piece that in 1867 was owned by someone whose name is nearly obliterated at the junction of two pieces of the map. There were still Whitacre farms nearby on the 1867 map, one of which was across the western township line in Survey No. 1494 (Harrison's survey). On the 1867 map, the railroad line crosses Todd's Fork on the property that had been Michael's.

On the same day, 3 May 1817, Daniel Mills bought, also from John Martin, 100 acres that appear to be immediately northwest of Michael's land and adjacent to it – the plot designated "J. Phillips" on the 1867 map above (7.235). The northwest corner of Michael's is marked by "an elm buckeye and a redbud," in the quaint surveyor's terminology of the Virginia Military Survey. The description of Daniel's land begins at that same elm buckeye and redbud and extends north and west from there to the state road visible on the map. That state road was known as the Wilmington Road and today is Route 22, running from Morrow to Wilmington, OH.

As I will elaborate below, I believe Daniel and Michael were brothers, partly because their property decisions seem to have been made together. Probate records show that Daniel was born about 1781, which would make him six years older than Michael. Various other family connections appear. For example, Edward C. Mills records that Michael had a sister, whom he does not name but who married Samuel Rogers. In the Warren County records appears the marriage of Elizabeth Mills and Samuel Rogers, with Elizabeth being

[14] All information on deeds is taken from the Warren County Register of Deeds, located in the county courthouse. References to deed locations are given parenthetically in the text by volume and page number, e.g., (7.234).

"of lawful age by the oath of Daniel Mills." In a later section, we will look at these siblings (Michael, Elizabeth and Daniel), along with at least two more brothers: Jacob and John.

Michael and Martha also purchased some land whose exact location I have not yet been able to find. In 1819, they bought two pieces in the town of Salem, numbered 32 and 39 "on the town plat," according to the deeds – the former from Isaac and Lydia Thomas and the latter from James Roach of Virginia.

On 21 Jun 1823, Michael and Martha sold their land on Todd's Fork (11.67) to John Burrows for more than twice what they had paid six years earlier ($196 vs $96). Given that Michael had bought it from the patentee, John Martin of KY, and was thus the first owner to live on the land, Michael was almost certainly one of those pioneers who bought undeveloped land cheaply and worked hard to clear and improve it. With substantial frontage on Todd's Fork, the land must have been very fertile. Michael's profit reflects the rapidly rising value of cleared and improved land in Warren County, a direct result of the hard labor put into it.

In 1818, the northern part of Salem Township had been divided to create Washington Twp, which included a small northern part of Survey 2225. And in 1824, Edward Thomas, Jr., had platted a community at the southern end of 2225, which he named Edwardsville. Lots were sold – we will later see that Michael bought three of them – but the community never developed and did not survive. The crossroads where it was located is still called Edwardsville, however, and Michael's first wife (Martha) and brother (Daniel) are buried in the Edwardsville Cemetery. It can be seen in the lower right portion of the 1867 map above, at the crossroads with the "Univ. Ch" designation.

Daniel's Troubles

There is probably a family factor involved in the 1823 sale of Michael's land as well. In October, 1822, one Sarah Whitacre brought suit against Daniel Mills in the Warren Court of Common Pleas for "proclaiming and publishing certain slanderous words" about her. This suit dragged on for a couple of years, ending up in an Ohio Supreme Court hearing held in Warren County. The courts found in favor of Sarah, and Daniel was assessed such a steep fine that, with court and legal expenses (hers as well as his), he had no way

to pay it except by selling his land. The initial court decision against Daniel came on May 19, 1823, just 33 days before Michael sold his land, which lay between Daniel's and a Whitacre place.

Daniel's land was placed in the hands of the county sheriff, and on July 1, 1823, it was "exposed to sale and not sold for want of bidders August 25, 1823." The sheriff then designated "five respectable, disinterested, free-holding residents" as appraisers, who came up with a value of $8 per acre, and the land was advertised in the Lebanon weekly newspaper. Finally, in December 1825, the land sold to James Elliott, of Clinton County, whose bid of $6.02 was highest (12.112).

The fact that no bidders appeared from Warren County when Daniel's land was offered, and that it was eventually sold at a fraction of its value to a man from the next county, suggest that there were strong community feelings about this case, and that no one wanted to take advantage of Daniel's loss. Moreover, the fact that the judgment against Daniel came just a month before the sale of Michael's land may have been coincidental, but I am inclined to link them. It seems likely to me that Michael chose to move elsewhere in the Township in part because of Daniel's loss to the neighboring Whitacres..

This is only speculative, however, and the fact remains that, by the time Daniel's land was finally sold, Michael's first wife, Martha, had died, and Michael had married Elizabeth Whitacre – probably not from the neighboring family. Elizabeth had a sister named Sarah Whitacre, just a year younger than she. However, given Sarah's age (14) and the fact that "Sarah" was one of the most popular girls' names at the time, and with so many Whitacre families in the area, it is unlikely that Elizabeth's sister was the Sarah who sued Daniel. Elizabeth's parents, Caleb and Keziah Whitacre, lived very close to the Clinton County line, and were buried in the New Hope Cemetery there, which was some distance from most of the local Whitacre properties, and I suspect they were not involved in the conflict with Daniel.

The *Western Star* of Lebanon, OH lists Daniel Mills as delinquent in property taxes both in June, 1824 and Nov. 1825, and in the latter year the State Auditor lists his property to be sold for taxes. (Michael is also listed as delinquent in June 1824.) This delinquency was probably related to the lawsuit ongoing at the time.

In any case, Daniel recovered financially in due time and, in 1827 he bought 137 acres of land from John and Jane Anderson for $800 (12.530). This was also within survey 2225, on Todd's Fork, but we don't know exactly where.

Michael and Martha Move Southeast in 2225

Meanwhile, on 17 Sept 1822, Michael and Martha had bought land further southeast, along the border between Taliaferro's survey 2225 and Fitzgerald's survey 2563, getting a 50 acre plot from Samuel and Rachel Sharpe for $178.50. This was evidently cleared land, probably less expensive per acre because not on Todd's Fork. The important thing about this land is that it shared a property line with Michael's sister and her husband, Elizabeth and Samuel Rogers. It also was adjacent on the north to Abraham Bowman who, as Justice of the Peace, had married Michael and Martha in 1815. Yet another immediate neighbor was L. D. Peacock, who no doubt was related to John Peacock, J.P., who had married Samuel Rogers and Elizabeth Mills on 29 Jul 1820. This move put Michael and his family in the vicinity of Edwardsville, which was laid out near the southeast edge of the survey by Edward Thomas, Jr. in 1824.

In 1824, Samuel and Eunice Rogers sold Michael 64 ¼ acres, part of Survey 2563, "on the waters of Lick Run," which would have placed it just south of the southwest corner of 2255 (11.104). I have no idea who Eunice Rogers was, but this Samuel was definitely not the Samuel who married Elizabeth Mills. It's yet another mystery to be solved.

It was also in 1824 that Samuel and Rachel Sharpe sold to Samuel and Elizabeth Rogers the 51 acres that was adjacent to Michael's land (11.124).

Michael Marries Elizabeth Whitacre

Thirty eight year old Michael married fifteen year old Elizabeth Whitacre in 1825 "with permission of her father." Elizabeth was born in Virginia, from which her parents, Caleb and Keziah, had brought their family to Warren County, Ohio. Caleb's land appears on the Warren County tax lists in the 1820s and 1830s, being in Fitzgerald's

survey No. 2561, located further southeast of 2225 close to the Clinton County line, and containing the New Hope Cemetery.

In 1828, Michael and Elizabeth sold the Sharpe land to Jonah Cadwallader. Michael signed the deed, but Elizabeth made her mark, which leads me to believe that she was not then literate. She was 18 years old at the time. However, in a later sale, in 1839, Elizabeth signs her name. Along with bearing seven children and raising three more, she had found time to learn to write.

On the tax list of 1827 for Salem Twp, Warren Co (pp 183, 196), Michael shows 48 ¼ acres in Survey 2563 (Fitzgerald, Prop.) and 52 acres in 2225 (Taliaferro, Prop.). On the same 1827 tax list, Daniel shows 100 acres in 2225 (Taliaferro, Prop.). Michael did not appear on the 1830 or 1832 tax lists for the area, and we don't know why. He does appear as a delinquent taxpayer on the 1840 tax list, with a very small piece of land (1 ¼ acres), even though he had already moved his family to Indiana.

In 1838, Michael bought government land in a newly opened part of Indiana. He moved his family to Jefferson Twp, Jay Co, IN, where he had he bought 320 acres, "the north half of Section 12 in Township 22 North, of Range 13 East," north and east of the Second Principal Meridian. The certificate was issued 20 Aug 1838 and marked "sale-cash." Most of his children followed to Indiana. Elizabeth bore her last child after the move, and she and Michael remained in Jefferson Twp, Jay Co. In 1864, they both died there and are buried in Liber Cemetery.

It was something of a coup for Michael to be able to put down cash to buy land in 1838. The so-called Panic of 1837, which led to several years' economic depression throughout the country, followed upon huge land speculation and unprecedented credit expansion. Although government land prices were fixed at $1.25 per acre, the speculators' practice of buying up and reselling western land at inflated prices had become widespread. Michael, however, bought directly from the government, probably using the proceeds from the sale of his Warren County land. Moreover, government land transactions required hard cash (silver or gold, called specie*), which was more difficult to come by than paper money. The certificate of sale that Michael received was signed by President Martin van Buren. (I have a photocopy.)*

Religion

Michael was probably raised a Baptist and eventually became a Free Will Baptist preacher. The brief biography in Burgess and Ward states:

Rev. Michael Mills was born in Pennsylvania May 28, 1787, and with the year 1817 began a new life unto God. He soon began to preach with the Calvinistic Baptists, but having Arminian views finally became a Free Baptist. In 1838, he moved to Jay County, IN, and continued his work, being ordained at about this time, and aided in building up the Salem Quarterly Meeting. His earthly life closed May 19, 1864. His native talent made him a close reasoner with a firm purpose." (p. 410)

The Mills family back in Tenmile Creek (Morgan Twp, Washington Co, PA) and elsewhere had been Baptists, and the little group that founded Columbia, OH included strong Baptists. The Free Will Baptists were very active in frontier areas and founded a church in Rossburg (about five miles west of Michael's land, later included in Harlan Twp) in 1833. They had a church at Edwardsville at least by the 1840s and very likely a local fellowship prior to that time.[15] We know nothing more of Michael's ministry than his work in building up the Salem (IN) Quarterly Meeting of Free Will Baptists.

Michael's Siblings

Edward C. Mills (ECM) was an Ohio genealogist who compiled three handwritten volumes of Mills genealogy near the end of the 19th century. ECM's notes included a description of Jacob Mills' family, as follows (Vol. 2, pp 160-161).

Jacob Mills, b about 1762, d. Logansport, Cass Co, Ind about 1846.

He had brother Elisha, who md and had 3 sons, Morgan, Elisha, and ____, and one dau ____ who md Farenzio Doty of Darke Co, where their family settled in an early day.

Jacob Mills and his brother Elisha and 6 others moved from Pennsylvania by flatboat down the Ohio to where Cincinnati now stands, about 1791, some time previous to Indian war of that period. He had much experience in Indian warfare and was a spy

[15] Morrow et al, p. 679.

under Gen. Wayne, and was at the Battle of the Maumee. Was one of the settlers that escaped an Indian massacre at Cincinnati, O.

His name appears among the list of boatload of pioneers landing Nov. 18, 1788 at Columbia, now included in city limits of Cincinnati, O. on monument erected at Columbia by Columbia Monument Association July 4, 1889. (Sutton's History of Ohio, p. 80?)

Children:

(1) John - lived Warren County O. many yrs. Died there abt 1838. Had son John who survived him and d few yrs later.

(2) Jacob - md Nancy ____, lived in Warren Co, O. many years. D Knox Co Ill, Sept 1863, near Abingdon.
Children:

1. Alonzo dead
2. Jane last heard of living near Galesburg, Ill.
3. Nancy " " " " "

(3) Michael 1787

(4) Daughter md Samuel Rogers.

ECM goes on to list the wives and children of Michael, including Jemima but not Betsey, and of Michael's son David.

This is the only listing of Jacob's children that I have found. It links Jacob born 1762 with his brother "Elisha" (which, in context, certainly has to be Elijah), and the trip down the Ohio River in a flatboat, to help found Columbia. The date is slightly wrong (should have been 1788 rather than 1791), but the facts are basically right. It clearly comes from a source on the Jacob side of the family rather than the Elijah side, since there are several errors and omissions in ECM's information about Elijah, while his information about Jacob's family is more complete and accurate. Also, the source seems to be different from the Bosworth document source, giving independent confirmation of the facts in which they agree.

ECM's source (whom he does not name) describes Jacob as an Indian fighter and a spy with Gen. Anthony Wayne in early 1794 at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Gen. Wayne had begun building his army at Fort Pitt (near Pittsburgh) in 1791, training them more rigorously than had Gen. St. Clair, and he moved them from the

Pittsburgh area to Cincinnati by stages, in late 1793. The Bosworth account also reports a family tradition handed down by Keziah Mills Bosworth (Michael's daughter) that Jacob was a scout with Gen. St. Clair in 1791 at the Battle of Wabash River Headwaters and witnessed the devastating defeat of his army of militia. The facts that (1) Jacob (and Elijah) are credited with being scouts and spies for the US Army in KY between 1790 and 1794, and (2) that we know (from Eckert and the Draper Mss) that skirmishes with Indians on the KY side of the Ohio River continued until late 1793, suggest that these Mills brothers were part of Wayne's army assigned to scouting and reconnaissance, just as Jacob had served in St. Clair's army.

Michael's Siblings

ECM's source[16] reports that Jacob had four children (and I believe Daniel to have been a fifth). The unnamed daughter turns out to be Elizabeth, who married Samuel Rogers in Warren County in 1820. We have already discussed Michael b 1787 and will come back to him and his children in another section. What have we learned about Daniel, John, Jacob Jr. and Elizabeth? Our information is fragmentary and suggestive, but not definitive.

Daniel Mills, probably the son of Jacob 1762

Daniel was born 10 April, 1781.[17] Sgt. Daniel Mills is listed among the members of Capt. Timothy Titus' company in the War of 1812, serving 4 Sep 1813 until 14 Mar 1814. This is our earliest knowledge of him. Pvt. Michael Mills is listed in the same company.[18]

Daniel married more than once. There is a Warren County record of Daniel Mills marrying Mary Middleton in 1828, and there is a Mary Mills who died 14 April 1836, at age 39 years, 11 months, and 21 days (so she was born 1796), and is buried in the Edwardsville Cemetery, where Daniel lies. Also, the 1827 Salem Twp tax list shows

[16] Because ECM's data included a listing of Michael's children and then detailed family data for only one of his children, David, I believe ECM's source was someone in David's family. David died in 1897, and ECM gives 1903 as the date he acquired the data, so the source was probably one of David's children (although David's wife was still living in 1899 and might have been the source). If so, it is puzzling as to why Elizabeth's name was omitted, and there was no mention of Daniel in ECM's information.

[17] Calculated from his age at death, given in the Ohio Mortality Schedule for 1850, p. 155.

[18] A Daniel Mills is listed as Pvt, 2nd Regiment, Zumalt's [Zumwalt's?] Ohio Militia, War of 1812, in the Ancestry.com database. This is probably someone from Hamilton Co rather than our Daniel.

John Middleton with 55 acres, also in Survey 2225 where Daniel and Michael lived.

There is no record of Daniel's children, but a Rhodolphus Mills was buried in 1835 in the Edwardsville Cemetery – he may well have been the son of Daniel and Mary. Also, in the 1830 census, Daniel Mills' household included a boy under five, a boy between 5 and 10, a girl between 15 and 20, as well as an adult male between 40 and 50 and an adult female between 30 and 40. The adult ages fit those of Daniel (b ca 1781) and a somewhat younger wife, probably Mary. The presence of two children older than 5 in 1830 suggests either that Daniel had a wife previous to Mary or that Mary had children from a previous marriage, or both.

We do know that Daniel married Elizabeth Meneley in 1837, in Warren County. She appears as his wife in later deeds and probate records, always signing her name "Elizabeth M." John Meneley appears on the 1840 Salem Twp tax list (in survey No. 1552), and both a Jesse Meneley and a John Meneley were buried in the Edwardsville Cemetery in 1825, so the Meneleys were certainly a Salem Twp family. In the 1830 census, Elizabeth Meneley was head of a household in Edwardsville, Salem Twp, with two boys 10-15 and three girls between 5 and 20.

It appears that Daniel had at least one son, John, who must have been Mary's son, since he was born about 1830, before Daniel and Elizabeth married. In the 1850 federal census, Elizabeth, 57 and born in VA, and John, 20, a farmer and born in OH, were living in the same household in Salem Twp – Daniel had died in 1849.

Daniel Mills appears in the 1830 tax list for Salem Twp (p. 224), but Michael does not – we don't know why. On the 1840 tax list, Michael, Daniel and Jacob all appear. (Michael and Jacob are on the delinquent list, Michael for 1 ½ acres, and Jacob for ½ acre.)[19]

In the 1840 census, the age distribution of Daniel's household is consistent with that of the 1830 census, except that the teenage girl is gone, and there is an older man living with them, in the age 70-80 category. The missing girl would be 25-30 in 1840 and would probably have been married during the 1830-1840 decade. We do not

[19] On the 1840 tax list for Salem Twp, there are confusing adjacent entries for John Meneley, Jacob Mills and Daniel Mills, showing that Daniel may have bought 18 acres of land from John (his brother-in-law?) in Survey 1552. In any case, there are obvious links between these three men.

know who the older man was, living with them in 1840. He was of the right age range (born 1760-1770) to have been Daniel's and Michael's father, Jacob.

In 1839, Daniel and Elizabeth Mills "of Green County, Ill." sold 12 acres of Survey 2225 land to Lewis Fairchild. We have no other record of Daniel in Greene County, Ill., and it seems that Daniel held his major Warren County OH land until his death in 1849, as indicated in the probate papers for his estate. There were, however, Meneley families in the Greenville area of Greene Co IL during that period, and further research may link Elizabeth and Daniel to them.

In the Warren County probate records for 1849 (Box 42) is a packet recording the settlement of the estate of Daniel Mills, who died of consumption on 5 September of that year at the age of 68 years, 5 months and 21 days.[20] Probably born in PA, he was buried in Edwardsville Cemetery. A bill submitted to his estate addressed him as "Daniel Mills of Edwardsville," suggesting that his land (in Survey 2225) was located in the southeastern part of that survey. Signatures found in the probate materials show that both Daniel and Elizabeth M. signed their names and were thus literate to some degree. His estate was closed out in 1854, when both Elizabeth M. and John signed receipts for their shares of the estate proceeds.

In 1849, Daniel was billed a total of $19.62 for taxes on 124 1/8 acres in Survey 2225 and 18 acres in 1552, the total assessed valuation of his property being $798. However, the value of Elizabeth's real estate in the 1850 census was given as $2500. There is no obvious explanation for the discrepancy.

In an 1858 deed (37.170) in which, for $300, Elizabeth sells 120 acres in Survey 2225 to John Mills of Warren County, she is listed as "of Greene County Ill." Thus far we have no further record of Elizabeth.

The deed just mentioned must have been an attempt to correct an earlier mistake. In 1855, John Mills had sold that same land (which had been his father's) to John M. Seaman of Warren County for $3312. There must have been a problem in getting clear title to the land, which led to the 1858 transaction above, in which Elizabeth M.

[20] Ohio Mortality Schedule for 1950, p. 155.

conveys it to John. I can't think of another reason why the sale to John would have followed his selling to Seaman by three years.

John Mills, son of Jacob 1762

John is mostly unknown to us. A John Mills married Martha Cassel (or Cassie) 13 May 1827 in Warren County, but we have no confirmation that this was our John, nor any knowledge of his family.

In the sale of Daniel's estate, a John Mills bought many items. In ECM's account, quoted above on pages 9-10, Jacob 1762's son John is reported to have died around 1838, and his son John to have survived him a few years. At this point, I can't verify his statement, but it seems that the John who purchased items from Daniel's estate was most likely Daniel's nephew.[21] Another possibility is that it was the John Mills who was buried in Olive Branch Cemetery (Washington Twp) in 1846.[22]

In any case, I was not able to work on deeds in Washington Twp and so have little knowledge of the John Millses who lived there. In the 1840 federal census of Washington Twp, a John Mills, born in the 1790s, has males 15-19 and 20-29 in his household, plus a girl 10-14, as well as a woman 40-49. These ages are consistent with John being a son of Jacob, but not, of course, if he died in 1838.

Jacob Mills, son of Jacob 1762

Jacob Mills married Nancy Lind, 29 Nov. 1827, by A. Tullis, JP.[23] In the 1830 US Census, a Jacob Mills is living in Mary Ellen, an area in either Salem or Union Twp, Warren Co, close to Morrow, and his household contains only one man age 30-40 and one woman age 20-30. If this was our Jacob, he would have been born in the 1790s.[24]

---

[21] A John Mills, "formerly of Warren County, now of Shelby County, Ohio" died in 1878. His wife Mary was named executor. He owned a small farm north of Sidney OH. I could find no way to link him to our line.

[22] In the notes of Marion Lavon Mills, the John Mills who died 6 Oct 1846 and was buried in the Olive Branch Cemetery was married to Nancy Mumpower in Grainger, TN and is reported by Marion to have been the son of Jacob and brother of Michael. I could find no mention of Mumpowers in Warren County records, federal censuses, or in ECM's work, nor have I found evidence that he is related to Jacob and Michael. I do not think Jacob 1762's son John is the one who married Nancy Mumpower, but it may take a DNA test to clarify the lines of descent. But see the discussion below on pages 17-18.

[23] A Jacob Mills married Rachel Williams 7 May 1819, by Abraham Bowman, JP, in Warren County. This could have been a first marriage for Michael's brother, but we don't know.

[24] Another Jacob is listed on p. 291 of the Salem Twp, Warren Co 1830 census, with the following household: two boys 15-20, one woman 30-40, and one man 50-60. I'm not sure who this was.

The 1840 census of Union Twp shows a Jacob Mills age 30-40, with a woman age 30-40, plus two boys under 5 and 5-10, and three girls under 5, 5-10 and 10-15. If this is the same Jacob, and he was born in 1800, he might well be Michael's brother.

Finally for census data on Jacobs, a Jacob Mills was living in Roachester, Salem Twp, in 1830, aged 50-60 (ie, born 1770-1780), with a woman aged 30-40 and a boy aged 15-20. I don't know who that might have been.

In the 1840 Tax List, a Jacob is reported to have sold his land in Survey 1552 – ½ acre - "the whole by Jacob Varner," to Henry Smith. This is likely Michael's brother Jacob, rather than his son. (Survey 1552 is immediately east of 2225, the southern part of which was in Salem Twp.)

A Jacob Mills was appointed by the Warren County Chancery Court as administrator of estates in the 1840s in Warren County. He was administrator of his brother Daniel's estate in 1849, the widow Elizabeth M. having made a written request that Jacob serve in that capacity. Two more appointments as estate administrator were in 1847 and 1850. In the former, he was co-administrator with Amos Shawhan of "John M. Lind, dec." John Lind was probably his father-in-law or other close relation of Jacob's wife, Nancy Lind. Jacob named Aquila Whitacre (Michael's brother in law) as appraiser. Also, in 1850, Jacob administered the estate of Stephen Pierson, dec., and witnesses were Aquila Whitacre, Samuel Stubbs and Amos Shawhan. This probably was Michael's brother Jacob.

ECM reports that this Jacob (son of Jacob 1762) lived in Warren County many years and died near Abingdon, Knox Co, IL Sep 1863. Also that he and Nancy had children: Alonzo (died young), Jane and Nancy (both living near Galesburg, Knox, IL at last report). I have not yet confirmed this or located them in that area.

<u>Elizabeth Mills Rogers, daughter of Jacob 1762</u>

Some of the information we have about Elizabeth has been given above – mention of her in ECM's volumes, her marriage to Samuel Rogers by John Peacock, JP, in 1820 with Daniel's blessing, and the Samuel Rogers' ownership of property adjacent to Michael's in Survey 2225, Salem Twp. The birth of their son, Eli Rogers (no doubt named for Samuel's brother Eli) is recorded as 21 August, 1825 in Wayne Twp, Warren Co. The notes of Marion Lavon Mills state that

Samuel and Elizabeth Rogers died in Indiana, and sure enough, in the 1850 census, we find Samuel and Elizabeth Rogers in Union Twp, Fulton Co, IN. Samuel was age 51, a blacksmith, b 1799 in NJ, and Elizabeth was age 55, born in Maryland.[25] Their children were Eli, 23, b OH, Sarah, 21, b OH, and David M. 19, b IN. Eli and David were blacksmiths like their father. If this Elizabeth was in fact Michael Mills' sister, these data suggest that Samuel and Elizabeth moved to Indiana about 1830 (as did several of Michael's Mills cousins).

Young Eli Rogers married three times and had at least at least seven children who died young. In 1860, he was 34, a blacksmith, and living in Richland Twp, Fulton Co IN, with his second wife, Barbara, 27, plus three children: Eli, William and Ann. His parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Rogers, both in their 60s, were living with them.

An older Eli Rogers, born about 1802 in NJ, who I believe was Samuel's brother, also moved to Fulton County prior to the 1840 census. This Eli Rogers married Sarah Mills in 1821 in Warren County, OH. They also were living in Union Twp, Fulton Co in 1850. Eli was 48 and Sarah (born in KY) was 57. [26] A daughter Nancy, 15, was living with them, and Daniel Rogers, 23 was living next door with Margaret, 19, his wife. Eli died 14 Jun 1863, age 62, and Sarah died 16 Jan 1857, age 63, and they are both buried in the same cemetery as Samuel's wife (Michael Mills' sister) Elizabeth.

US Census and cemetery data for Fulton Co IN reveal the following: Elizabeth Mills Rogers died 14 Dec 1851, at age 56, and is buried in the Shaffer Cemetery, North Section, Union Twp of Fulton Co. Buried beside her was Samuel's and Elizabeth's son Samuel, who died at 15 in 1849. We do not have a death date or burial place for Elizabeth's husband Samuel Rogers.

Michael's Father, Jacob Mills, born 1762

[25] The 1860 census shows Elizabeth as having been born in Indiana. It seems unlikely that Elizabeth was born either in MD or in IN unless she is of a different family that our Mills line, since our Jacob Mills 1762 who we think was her father was living in Ohio in 1795. I don't have an explanation for this yet.

[26] I don't know whose daughter Sarah was, but her KY birth suggests that she may have not been from our line.

I have assumed throughout that the father of these five siblings was Jacob, born 1762 in Maryland.[27] There is considerable evidence, though not yet documented, showing that Michael's father was the Jacob Mills who came down the Ohio River with his family, arriving on 18 Nov 1788, as part of the Benjamin Stites party, settling where the Miami empties into the Ohio, and founding Columbia, Ohio.[28]

Included in the monument raised to the Stites settlers in 1889 is a memorial to the "Baptist Pioneers of 1788-1790." It is very likely that Jacob was a Baptist, not only from this evidence but also because the Mills in the Tenmile Creek community (Morgan Twp, Green Co, PA) from which he came, were known to be Baptists. Also, his son Michael was a Baptist and became an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher. Jacob's brother Elijah is buried in the Pleasant Grove Baptist Cemetery in Madison Twp, Butler Co, OH.

In what follows, I will present what I know of Jacob in the 1790s and early 1800s in Warren and Hamilton Counties, and how this limited amount of information is supportive of my acceptance of Jacob 1762 as Michael's father (and my ggg grandfather).

In the 1820 census, a Jacob Mills appears in Madison Twp, Butler Co, living close to Elijah Mills, presumably his brother. (Butler County data will come in a later paper.) The question then becomes "Where was Jacob 1762 between his arrival in 1788 and his appearance on the 1820 census?

A Jacob Mills is listed as among the first lot owners in Losantiville (now Cincinnati), Hamilton Co, OH in 1789-90. [29] We don't know of another Jacob Mills in that area at that time.

We know that Jacob and Elijah both served as scouts and spies for the US military between 1790 and 1794, and family lore places Jacob

---

[27] See discussion above, pp 1-2. Also, ECM information on pp 9ff.

[28] This story is repeated in many places. I have used the Gargiulo account cited above. That Jacob brought his family is not clear from the 1889 memorial, but Symmes makes it very clear by referring to "Elijah Mills, Jacob Mills and family" as among those who landed at Columbia on 18 Nov 1788. The Draper Mss include a similar mention. (History of Hamilton Co, Ohio-Draper Manuscripts, John Cleves Symmes Papers, Roll 13CC, Vol 3.)

[29] Jacob Mills of VA, who married Mary Webb, also came to Warren County (via KY) and bought land in the northern part of the county in 1801, where he lived from 1801 until 1809, when he moved to Greene County, OH. Mentions of Jacob Mills in Warren after 1809 do not refer to that Jacob, therefore, nor do any mentions of Jacob Mills in southern townships of Warren County or in Hamilton County after 1803 refer to him.

in both the St. Clair defeat of 1791 and Wayne's victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.[30]

A Jacob Mills is recorded as providing security in the Hamilton County OH probate documents for the estate of James Hair, deceased, on 13 Aug 1798.[31]

From the Records of the Warren County Court of Common Pleas, 1803-1808, Jacob Mills appears as a juror, and also in a debtor suit. (These could either be our Jacob or Jacob from VA and KY who moved to Greene Co OH in 1809.)

On 3 May 1809, Jacob Mills of Warren County purchased 100 acres of land in Survey 1911 from Alexander Hamilton of Warren County.

There is a Jacob Mills on the Hamilton Twp Warren Co tax lists for 1809 (p. 34) and 1810 (p. 3). Hamilton Twp was in the southern part of Warren County, adjacent to Hamilton County. Salem Twp was formed in 1813, chiefly from Hamilton Twp. Two Jacobs are on the 1806 Warren Co tax list, without a designation of township. In 1812, Jacob Mills appears as a taxpayer in Warren County[32]

In an 1817 deed (7.449) Jacob Mills had sold land to Thomas Ireland, located on Todd's Fork close to the village of Morrow, probably originally in the part of Hamilton Twp that was attached to Salem Twp in 1813. I do not think this is Michael's brother Jacob, who was probably 23 or younger at that time, but was probably Michael's father, Jacob 1762.

In the 1820 census for Butler County, Jacob Mills appears with 2 boys under 10, two men 45 or older, and one woman 26-45. If the age categories are right, this Jacob is too old to be the Jacob b 1792, who was living in Brown's Run, Madison Twp, Butler Co at the time. He was likely Jacob 1762. It is unclear whether the young family in his household is his family or someone else's.

In 1824, Jacob Mills appears on the Madison Twp, Butler Co tax records and is there, living very close to Elijah Mills in the Brown's Run area, until 1829. By 1830 he no longer appears in Butler County records.

---

[30] Supra, footnotes 3 and 4. Also, *Kentucky Military Records: U.S. Soldiers 1784-1811*.
[31] Abstracts of Book 1 and Book A Probate Record, 1791-1826, Hamilton County, OH.
[32] *The 1812 Census of Ohio*

In the 1830 US Census, a Jacob Mills appears in Roachester,[33] Salem Twp, living close to Daniel Mills, with two boys 15-19, one man 50-60, and one woman 30-40. The man age 50-60 was not likely to have been Michael's brother Jacob, who would have been under age 40 in 1830. If the census age range given is correct, this Jacob was also too young to have been Michael's father, Jacob 1762, who would have been 68 in that year. If the age range is wrong, or if Jacob reported himself as younger than he was, this was probably Jacob 1762, who might have returned from Butler CO to Salem Twp, Warren CO by 1830.

ECM reports (Vol 2, p. 160): "Jacob Mills, b about 1762, d. Logansport, Cass Co, Ind about 1846." While ECM's information is often confirmed by other data, this is the only mention of Cass County, IN anywhere in our Mills genealogy. However, immediately north of Cass County is Fulton County, IN, where Jacob 1762's daughter Elizabeth Rogers and family were living about 1830, and it is possible that they were together in that area.

Jacob seems definitely to have left Butler County by 1830, but we are not sure where he went.

Some Other Mills Lines

Part of the difficulty of this research has been the existence of other Mills lines in pioneer southwestern Ohio. Five of them are mentioned below, in no particular order, to alert other researchers to the problem of keeping the lines straight.

Jacob Mills of VA/KY and Greene Co OH

This Jacob came north from Kentucky around 1801 and bought 200 acres of land in northeast Warren County, Range 5, Township 3, Section 9, the south end of the east half, in the US lands formerly claimed by John Cleves Symmes but never sold to him. Jacob married Mary Webb and in 1809 moved to Greene County, OH, where he raised a large family and became a prominent figure. (See above, footnote 30.) This Jacob is probably related to our Mills family, being the son of Thomas Mills and Martha Phillips of Fleming Co, KY.

[33] I know this looks like a misprint, but Roachester is the correct name. The town was laid out in 1816 by a man named Roach.

The Mumpower/Mumbower connection: In Marion Lavon Mills' (MLM) notes is mention of a John Mills who married Nancy Mumpower (born in 1797) Washington Co Tenn. (Great great grandparents of Marion H. Edingfield.) Nancy became "a widow of many years" and died Aug. 30 1881, age 84 years 10 mos, 3 days. MLM wrote: [The bracketed additions are mine, from other sources.]

Children.

(1) Joseph C. was married three times. No. 1 Elizabeth Willis [in 1849, Warren Co]. No. 2 Mrs. Sarah C. Deboth [Sp?] Nov 23, 1880. No. 3 was in Kansas, her name not known. His oldest son was killed in Mexican war. Joseph died in 1898 (Elizabeth Willis born Dec. 31, 1801 – 1891.)

(2) Elizabeth (born May 18, 1827 – Aug. 1878) married a farmer by name of Whiterman. [Her name was America Elizabeth, and she married Adam G. Witeman in 1854.]

(3) Eliza Jane married William Murry. 15 1843 (she not of age) [in Warren Co]

(4) James (went to Indiana?)

(5) Thomas Jefferson lived near Winchester, Ind, married Nancy Miller from Ireland.

(6) William (went to California)

(7) Perry married Ann Vandevert [or Vandevort] Mar 27 1854 (No. 1). He married Lena [Mary Emeline] Wilkerson (No. 2) [in 1864]. Perry and Lena had a daughter named Flora living in Lebanon, Ohio, a son Charles A. Perry when young was a lawyer at Cincinnati Ohio, but when living with second wife was a carpenter and farmer. Died at Lebanon Ohio but know record was filed. Perry was born 1828, died 1894, buried on old Wilkerson Cemetery on Wilmington Pike out of Lebanon.

Apparently, the correct family name was Mumbower. Nancy Mumbower was born about 1800 in Grainger, TN and married there to a John Mills 24 Sep 1819. She was the daughter of Jonathan Mumpower and Jane Gray, who were from Washington County VA.[34] She is reported to have died between the 1860 and 1870 censuses, probably in Clear Creek Twp, Warren Co, OH. While the John Mills buried in Olive Branch Cemetery, Washington Twp in 1846 may have been Nancy Mumbower's husband, I have found no record of that.

[34] Families of Washington County and Bristol, Virginia (1776-1996), compiled by the Holston Territory Genealogical Society and Don Mills, Inc., (Waynesville, NC: Walsworth Publishing, 1996).

Marion Lavon Mills reports that John's and Nancy's daughter Flora, of Lebanon OH, told her that Nancy was also buried in Olive Branch Cemetery but without a stone (and also, obviously, without any burial record, although the Warren Co death records list her death in 1881). (See above, footnote 22.) As to census reports, a John Mills appears in 1840 in Washington Twp, Warren Co, with a 9 member household. In 1850, John is absent and Nancy is living with her daughter Eliza Murray (wife of William Murray) in Clear Creek Twp, Warren Co., as she is in 1860 also. Another website gives a long list of Mumbowers in Randolph County, IN between 1830 and 1860.

At this point it is unclear whether the John Mills who married Nancy Mumbower and was buried in 1846 is related to our line. yDNA testing seems the best way to resolve this question.

Quaker Mills:

In Wayne Twp, in the northeast part of Warren County, a large family of Quakers named Mills settled in the early days. For the most part, they remained in the northern part of the county, so it remains fairly easy to separate land and other records involving them simply by locating them in Wayne Twp. Given names used were also mostly different from our family's names in the southeastern part of the county. These Mills are not related to us as far as we know.

Marmaduke Mills:

In the part of Salem Twp that was included in Washington Twp in 1818, Marmaduke Mills settled in 1805. According to Edward C. Mills (Bk 2, p. 232), he was the son of John and Patience Mills, Quakers, who came from South Carolina. As such, he is not related to our family, but it has occasionally been difficult to sort out members of that family from ours. A Marmaduke appears on the Warren Co tax lists for 1809 and 1810, in Wayne Twp.

Jeremiah Mills:

This is another individual, a Revolutionary soldier from Virginia, who settled in Washington Twp in 1818, and who had a son Jere Mills and four daughters.[35] His wife may have been Elizabeth Williams, married 18 Sep 1828. Again, I doubt that he is related to our line, and I have tried to avoid confusing his family members with ours.

[35] Morrow et al, p. 695

Michael's Children

Our Michael's two wives bore nine children who grew to adulthood, plus two more that probably died in infancy. All but the last were born in Warren Co OH. I will give a brief account of each, based on family records and memoirs, chiefly those of Sowers (1951) and Bosworth (1942). [36]

Martha's children:

Martha McHugh bore four children during the nine years she was married to Michael Mills (1815-1824): Jesse J., Amy, Jacob, and Betsey. All were born in Warren County, OH.

(1) Jesse J. was born July 31, 1816. Jesse married Sarah LaFollette and farmed in the northeast corner of Jefferson Twp, Jay Co, IN. (The Joseph LaFollettes lived quite near Michael in Survey 2225, Salem Twp, Warren Co, OH.) Jesse's farm in Jay Co IN joined his father's on the north. Bosworth reports that Jesse and Sally had at least two sons, Aquilla, who was a Civil War soldier, and David. Both lived and died in Jay County. Sowers gives a longer list of children as 'Jesse J., Joseph, George, John Jr., Ellen, Mattie, Lydia, and another girl. . . ." She mentions George as a physician in Bryant, IN, Jesse and John as lawyers (Jesse as Dean of Law at Indiana University), and Joseph as a Civil War fatality. She also says that young Jesse married Anna Wells of Liber and had children Byron and Millie. She mentions David and Aquilla without being sure whose sons they were. Aquilla was probably named for Jesse's cousin, Aquilla McHugh, son of John and Elizabeth. It is possible that Aquilla and David were sons of Jesse's brother Jacob (below).

(2) Amy was born May 28, 1819. She married John LaFollette (brother to Sarah LaFollette who married Amy's brother Jesse)) and lived on a farm near Collett Station in Jay County IN. John taught school for several years and completed his brother-in-law Pulaski's

[36] Birth dates and some other information are taken from the Charles Bosworth memoir. While there are errors in his writing, the specificity of dates makes it likely that they come from a family Bible or similar written record, so I have more confidence in them. Since Bosworth credits his brother Eli N. Bosworth with providing much information, it is possible that the Bible still exists. Charles lived in Iowa and also in Harrison, AR; we don't know Eli's location. Some of the other information below about Michael's children and grandchildren comes from Bosworth's account and may not be correct – I know, for example, that much of what he wrote about Pulaski's family was wrong. However, I have used what seemed likely to be correct and have added verified information.

term as Jay Co. Supt of Schools, when Pulaski went for Civil War service. John and Amy had seven children: Martha, George, Jesse J. M., Jane, Lyda, Rachel, and John M. The children as adults included two lawyers, a physician, and two schoolteachers.

(3) Betsey was born Nov. 25, 1821. We know nothing more of Betsey than that she died very young.

(4) Jacob was born June 7, 1824. Jacob lived at Pendleton, Indiana for a time, but we know nothing more of him.

[[add Jacob data]]

Elizabeth's children:

Elizabeth Whitacre bore seven children during the 39 years she was married to Michael (1825-1864). All but Cassius were born in Warren County.

(5) Jemima W. was born Jan. 23, 1826. We know nothing more of Jemima except that she died very young.

(6) Keziah was born April 22, 1827. Keziah married Augustus Bosworth, and they had nine children, one of whom is the Charles who has provided so much information for this report. Charles apparently was an educator in Ottumwa, IA, although in 1942 he was living in Harrison, AR. The other children include several teachers. Keziah's descendants still live in the Portland, IN area.

(7) David was born Sept. 27, 1829. David married Margaret Wells of Liber in Jay Co IN, and they lived in the Liber community there. David worked at the harness trade and they later (around 1868) moved to Worth Co, in the northern part of Missouri, on the Iowa line. David farmed and became a Methodist minister, pastor of a nearby church. They had eight sons who ECM names as James M., Jonathan R., Cyrus L., Oliver P. Morton, Charles O. Edgar O., Harlan P., and Howard. They included several physicians and educators. Edgar died in infancy.

(8) Rachel was born Oct. 3, 1831. Rachel married Aceph (or Asa) Davis Dec. 25. 1852 and lived on a small farm just west of Collett Station. They were always poor, and Aceph died in 1864. They had five children: Sciota Elmira, Pulaski Augustus, John, William, and Louisa. Only Pulaski (Gus) and Louisa survived to adulthood. Gus was an exhorter in the United Brethren Church and not regularly

employed. Louisa married Richard Smith and lived in Portland, Jay Co., IN. I have no record of children for either.

(9) Pulaski was born April 20, 1834. He married Agnes Lucy Bennett on Aug. 7, 1860, and they had five children: Cyrus Heywood, Florence Nightingale, Ginevra Elizabeth, Wendell Stuart Worth, and Amy Francena (Birdie). Pulaski was one of the first class of students when Liber College opened in Jefferson Twp, Jay Co, IN (sponsored by the Congregational Church), and he taught Greek (or Latin) and English there and at several places in the county. Agnes was also a Liber student and schoolteacher. Pulaski died in his early forties, and Agnes died the following April after giving birth to triplets, who did not survive. They were buried in Liber Cemetery. The children were scattered to the homes of relatives and friends.[37]

Pulaski had no head for business, and they were always desperately poor. He nonetheless invested a thousand dollars in a new Free Will Baptist college at Ridgeville, IN, and the family spent at least two sojourns in that community. Although his gift was supposed to provide scholarships for his children and a professorship for him, nothing came of either expectation. Pulaski's decline began about 1870 with malaria chills and fever while farming on the Worth farm near the Loblolly swamp (later known as "Limberlost" and popularized in the writings of Gene Stratton-Porter). After several years of illness and poverty, he died on Nov. 15, 1874.

(10) Cyrus K. (or R.) was born June 3, 1837. Cyrus traveled a great deal in the western states (at least California and Kansas) when young, and eventually returned to Indiana and married Phoebe Montgomery. They had one child who died young. He made a living partly through gardening and trucking. He and Phoebe lived Cleveland, OH in the 1870s and later moved to Pennville, Jay Co, IN until her death. He married again to Mary W. Snyder[38] and died about 1914 at Geneva, Ind., his second wife's home.

(11) Cassius B. was born in Jay Co IN on Mar. 12, 1845. Cassius attended Liber College also and served in the Union Army. He became a physician and practiced in Kansas, where he married and had three daughters: Elizabeth (Lizzie), Emma, and Elsie. Cassius

[37] Pulaski was my great grandfather, and his son Wendell was my grandfather. Sowers gives birth dates as: Cyrus Nov 3, 1862; Florence Nov. 7, 1864, Ginevra August 4, 1867, Wendell May 24, 1869, Amy April 15, 1872.

[38] From *Indiana Marriages, 1811-1959.*

died in Kansas while he was relatively young, reportedly from tuberculosis.

Michael's Later Years

We know very little about Michael's life after 1838, when he purchased a half section of land from the US government in Jefferson Twp, Jay Co, IN and moved his family to that location. He farmed that land and also continued as a Free Will Baptist preacher, helping to develop the Salem Quarterly Meeting. I am not aware of any other activities, but reports show that Michael and Elizabeth were still living in Jefferson Twp when they both passed away in 1864. They are buried in Liber Cemetery in that Twp.

Appendix on Southwestern Ohio Land and Surveys

Below are excerpts from Part III of *The History of Warren County* by Josiah Morrow.

HAMILTON COUNTY

For a period of thirteen years subsequent to 1790, and for about eight years after the first settlement, Warren County, or that portion of it between the Miamis, formed a part of Hamilton County, with the seat of justice at Cincinnati. That portion of Warren west of the Great Miami, from 1790 to 1798

was a part of Knox County, with the seat of Justice at Vincennes on the Wabash; from 1798 to 1803, a part of Hamilton; and from 1803 to 1815, a part of Butler. The part of Warren east of the Little Miami seems to have been included in Hamilton County from 1796 to 1803.

Hamilton County, the second county of the Northwest Territory, was formed by proclamation of Gov. Arthur St. Clair, January 2, 1790. It was originally bounded on the south by the Ohio; on the east by the Little Miami; on the west by the Great Miami; and on the north, by a line drawn due east from the Standing Stone Forks or branch of the Great Miami. The Standing Stone Fork or branch of the Great Miami is supposed to have been Loramie's Branch, which flows into the Miami near the northern boundary line of Miami County. On August 15, 1796, the eastern boundary line of Hamilton County was altered, and declared to be a due north line from the lower Shawnee town on the Scioto River. On June 22, 1798, the western boundary of Hamilton County was declared to run with the Greenville treaty line from the Ohio River to Fort Recovery.

VIRGINIA COUNTIES

But at still earlier dates, our territory had been made a part of political divisions called counties. During the Revolution, this region would have been marked on a map of the North American Colonies as a part of Virginia, whose extensive domain, making her the mother of States as well as of Presidents, reached to the Mississippi. Out of this broad territory, vast counties were formed. The county of Kentucky included

the whole of the present State of that name. In October, 1778, Virginia, by statute, declared that: “All the citizens of the commonwealth of Virginia, who are already settled or who shall hereafter settle on the western side of the Ohio, shall be included in a distinct county, which shall be called Illinois County,” Our territory, then, once formed a part of the vast western county of Virginia called Illinois.

But going back a few years further, we find this region included in a county of still more vast extent. south of the Natural Bridge, between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghanies, and intersected by the James River, is a county of Virginia, with Fincastle for its seat of justice, named Botetourt, in honor of Norborne Berkeley, Lord Botetourt, a conspicuous actor in American colonial history, and Governor of Virginia. That county was established in 1769, and originally included our county within it limits. It was bounded on the east by the Blue Ridge, on the west by the Mississippi, and comprised Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Fincastle, then, as now, was the county seat.

The following curious provision is found in the act of Virginia creating Botetourt County:

And whereas, the people situated on the Mississippi, in the said county of Botetourt, will be very remote from the court house, and must necessarily become a separate county as soon as their numbers are sufficient – which probably will happen in a short time: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid (House of Burgesses) that the inhabitants of that part of the said county of Botetourt which lies on the said waters, shall be exempted from the payment of any levies to be laid by the said county court for the purpose of building a court house and prison for said county.

Act of March 24, 1803

Section 1. – That all that part of the county of Hamilton included within the following bounds, viz.: Beginning at the northeast corner of the county of Clermont, running thence west with the line of said county to the Little Miami; thence up the same with the meanders thereof to the north boundary of the first tier of sections in the second entire range of townships in the Miami Purchase; thence west to the northeast corner of Section No. 7 in the third township of the aforesaid range; thence north to the Great Miami;

thence up the same to the middle of the fifth range of townships; thence east to the Ross County line; thence with same south to the place of beginning – shall compose one new county, to be called and known by the name of Warren.

Act of January 30, 1815

Section 1. – That all that part of the county of Butler lying and being within the first and second fractional townships in the fifth range, and adjoining the south line of Montgomery County, shall be and the same is hereby attached to and made part of the county of Warren.

Sec. 2 – That eleven square miles of the territory of the county of Warren and extending parallel to the said eastern boundary of Warren County, along the whole length of such eastern boundary from north to south, shall be and the same is hereby attached to and made a part of the county of Clinton.

Adventurous whites, too, singly or in small parties, had traversed this whole region years before the first settlements were made. In the record of land entries in this county, reference is made to a beech tree on the bank of the Little Miami, and then supposed to be six miles below the mouth of Caesar's Creek, marked **Robert Connerly**, R. A., 1787. As the entry (No. 737) of the land on which this tree stood was made August 7, 1787, the tree must have been marked prior to that date. It was six years afterward found by **Gen. Massie** with the same mark upon it, while he was surveying lands east of the Little Miami. There was seen sixty years ago a beech near the mouth of Caesar's Creek marked W. G., 17085 – no doubt intended for 1785. Caesar's Creek and Todd's Fork both received their present names prior to August, 1787.

In the winter and spring of 1787, the Virginia Military District, between the Little Miami and the Scioto, was explored by Maj. **John O'Bannon** and **Arthur Fox**, two enterprising surveyors of Kentucky. Their object was to obtain a knowledge of the lands for the purpose of making entries as soon as an office should be opened for entries, which was done on the 1st day of August, 1787. They explored the whole extent of country along the Ohio and passed some distance up the Scioto and the Little Miami, and some of the smaller streams which flow into these rivers. It was probably from this exploration that O'Bannon Creek received its name. A white oak tree at the mouth of this stream was marked O'B. Cr. as early as 1787, as is shown by the record of land entries.

Maj. Benjamin Stites was one of the earliest explorers of the region, which became Symmes' Purchase. Some have believed that he was the prime mover in the inception of the purchase. According to the narrative of Dr. **Ezra Ferris**, Benjamin Stites was originally from Essex County, N. J., and, after emigrating to Western Pennsylvania, became a Captain in the militia, and took an active part in the frontier struggles with the Indians. In the spring of 1787, he descended the Ohio from Redstone with a flat-boat load of flour, whisky and other wares, to Limestone Point, now Maysville. Having little success in the disposal of them, he bushed back in the interior to Washington, where a marauding party of Indians fan off some of his horses and stole other property. He organized a pursuing party and followed the trail down the Kentucky shore to a point opposite the mouth of the Little Miami, where he constructed a raft, crossed the Ohio and followed the trail up the Little Miami Valley to the vicinity of Old Chillicothe, a few miles north of Xenia. The Indians being in camp there in considerable force, he deemed it prudent to return, and doing so at his leisure he had opportunity to observe the beauty and fertility of the country. On his return to the Ohio he decided to come back to the valley with a colony and make a permanent settlement. Some time afterward he met in Trenton, N. J., Judge **John Cleves Symmes**, and became interested with him in the grand speculation known as the Miami Purchase. Undoubtedly Symmes received much information from Stites concerning the lands between the Miamis. **Maj. Stites** became the owner of 10,000 acres near the mouth of the Little Miami. He also received deeds, dated May 14, 1795, for about 10,000 acres of

land in the vicinity of the sites of Lebanon and Deerfield and between those points.

According to the author of Western Annals, the exploration of the Miami lands by **Stites** was made at an earlier date than that given in the preceding paragraph. The statement in Western Annals is that Symmes was led to visit the Miami region "by the representations of Benjamin Stites, of Redstone (Brownsville), who had examined the valleys of the Shawnees soon after the treaty of January, 1786. **Symmes** found them all and more that all they had been represented to be."

No attempts were made to establish permanent settlements in the Miami country until after the Revolutionary war, and after Virginia had generously ceded her Western territory to the General Government in 1784. The projector of the plan for the purchase and settlement of the lands between the Miamis, was an ex-Member of Congress and Chief Justice of the State of New Jersey- **John Cleves Symmes**.

This is not the place to give the history of Symmes' Purchase, although the earlier settlers of this county derived their titles from Judge Symmes. The whole history of that grand but unfortunate land speculation is fully narrated in **Judge Burnet's** excellent "Notes on the Northwestern Territory." It is sufficient for our purpose that Symmes proposed to Congress to purchase a tract between the Miamis, supposed to contain 2,000,000 acres; that when his contract was made with Congress, the amount was reduced to 1,000,000; that it was afterward found that there were but 600,000 acres between the two rivers up as far as the head-waters of the Little Miami; that Symmes having paid for only half that quantity, received a deed for a tract of 311,682 acres, being the number of acres including school and ministerial lands and other reservations, for which he had made payment The northern boundary of Symmes' patent is an east-and-west line, passing from a point on the Little Miami a short distance below Freeport to the Great Miami about three miles below Middletown.

Symmes published a pamphlet at Trenton, N. J., November 26, 1787, giving the terms of sale and settlement of the Miami lands. As the

lands about the Muskingum had been purchased by a New England Company, Symmes' Purchase was intended chiefly for the accommodation for the inhabitants of the States west of the Connecticut River. The price of the lands of this purchase was 66 2/3 cents per acre, payable in certificates of debts of the Government and in land-warrants. But as the certificates of debts due from the United States were then worth only one fourth of their face, the specie price at which Congress sold all the land from Cincinnati to Hamilton and Lebanon now the most valuable tract in the State was about 17 cents per acre. The lands were sold to settlers in quantities of not less than 160 acres, and the purchaser was bound to begin improvements within two years or to forfeit one sixth part of his purchase, which might be given by Symmes to any one who would settle thereon and remain seven years. One penny or the ninetieth of a dollar per acre was to be paid at the time of purchasing the land-warrant to defray the expense of surveying the tract; and one farthing, or the one three hundred and sixtieth of a dollar per acre to defray the expenses of printing the land-warrant and registering the entries. Such were the terms under which some of our fathers contracted for our homes.

Ministers of the Gospel were cordially invited in Symmes' pamphlet to settle in the new country, and were offered the free use of Section 29, set apart in every township for the support of the Gospel. Schoolmasters were offered the free use of Section 16, reserved for the benefit of schools. The policy of setting apart public lands for the support of religion was discontinued by Congress after the adoption of the National Constitution; but the reservation of one section in every township for the support of schools has been continued till the present time in the sale of all the public lands. We thus have in Warren County the anomaly of the churches in one fourth of the county receiving out of a provision of the old Federal Congress a bounty of from $1 to $2 annually for each church member; while in three fourths of the county ministerial lands are unknown, and religion is supported only by voluntary contributions. And an experience of more than three quarters of a century has taught us that the donation of public lands for the support of religion, however well intended, was not wisely made.

The surveyors were early at work. The boundaries of Symmes' Purchase under his first contract were surveyed in 1789. East of the Little Miami, **John O'Bannon** surveyed lands in this county and near

the stream that bears his name in March, 1792. And in the month of October in the same year, Gen. **Nathaniel Massie**, in the midst of the most appalling dangers from the Indians, surveyed and located land warrants to the amount of 30,000 acres in this county, and chiefly on Caesar's Creek and Todd's Fork. Such were the dangers and hardships under which the early surveys were made in the Virginia Military District, that one-fourth, one third, and sometimes one-half of the tillable land of the entry was paid the surveyor.

No permanent settlements were attempted within the limits of Warren County for more than six years after the first adventurers had established themselves at Columbia, Cincinnati and North Bend. Yet extensive purchases of land had been made in this region long before its first settlement. Before three years had elapsed after the establishment of the first colony at Columbia, Symmes had sold sections, half-section and quarter sections in every range and township of his purchase. Why this long delay in occupying the healthy and fertile lands of Warren County? The explanation is easy: The Indians had manifested their hostility as soon as the white settlements had been commenced, and parties of savages were constantly lurking in the woods awaiting opportunities to kill and plunder. Even at the stations, as they were called, near each other and near Fort Washington, and protected by block-houses and pickets, the inhabitants were kept constantly on the alert, and went to church with their guns. To have attempted the occupancy of any lands within the limits of this county prior to Wayne's victory would have been extreme temerity.

References

The 1812 Census of Ohio: A Statewide Index of Taxpayers. (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1992)

Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1887. Reprinted 1974.

Bosworth, Charles A. *The Mills Family: Descendants of Jacob Mills, Father of Michael Mills.* Ms excerpt from Whitacre Family History by

same author. In possession of Connie Lyons, Portland, IN. 19 pp, 1942.

Burgess, Rev. G. A., and Rev. J. T. Ward, eds., *Free Baptist Cyclopedia Historical and Biographical.* (Free Baptist Cyclopedia, 1886, 1889).

Eckert, Allan W. *That Dark and Bloody River: Chronicles of the Ohio River Valley.* NY: Bantam Books, 1995.

Gargiulo, Barbara Keyser, ed. *Hamilton County, Ohio, as Extracted From Henry Howe's "Historical Recollections of Ohio."* Milford, OH: Little Miami Publishing Co., 2005.

History of Butler County, Ohio.

History of Lewis, Clark, Knox, and Scotland Counties of Missouri, 1887

Knepper, George W. *The Official Ohio Lands Book.* Columbus, OH: Auditor of State, 2002.

Leckey, Howard L. *The Tenmile Country and its Pioneer Families.* (Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 1997, 2nd printing)

Military History of Kentucky. Written by members of the Federal Writers Project of Kentucky, 1939.

Mills, Edward C. *Mills Family Genealogy, Vols. I-III.* Manuscript volumes in possession of Ohio Historical Society Archives, Columbus, OH. 1894 to 1946.

Mills, Marion Lavon. Family notes in Ms form, 14 pp. In possession of John Edingfield III. 1953.

Morrow, Josiah, et al. *The History of Warren County, Ohio.* (Chicago, IL: W. H. Beers Co, 1882); reprint, Mt. Vernon, IN: Windmill Publications, 1992.

Ohio Marriage Records Through 1820. Available at the Ohio Historical Society Archives, Columbus, and in other libraries.

Ohio Wills and Estate records, 1803-1850.

Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812. (Columbus, OH: Adjustant General of Ohio, 1916). Reprinted by Clearfield Publishing Co., 1989.

Sowers, Florence Mills. *A Saga of the Mills Family.* Typewritten Ms in possession of Edgar W. Mills, Jr. 12 pp, 1951.

Symmes, John Cleves. *History of Hamilton, Ohio.* In Draper Mss, Papers, Roll 13CC, Vol. 3.

Warren County, *Will and Estate Principals Index 1803-1836.*

Wolfe, Barbara Schull, Transcriber, *An Index to the Compiled Service records of Volunteer Soldiers, 1784 to 1811.* (Indianapolis, IN: Heritage House, 1985)

William H. H. Yeager. *A Short Sketch of the Ancestry and Lives of the Yeager Family for 150 Years Back.* 1888. Found at http://www.geocities.com/vigobios/yeager.htm

Internet sources:

(1) Dyer, Adina Watkins. "Descendants of Elijah Mills and Mary "Polly" Bailey, at http://home.insightbb.com/~adyer/EMills.htm#i1172

(2) *Indiana Marriages, 1811-1959,* available on LDS website familysearch.org.

Ted Mills
631 Lakeview Blvd, Apt B101
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-632-6638
millsted@westelcom.com